

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 26, with the following amended paragraph:

Typically, the containers in which the instruments and devices are packaged are made of a textile or nonwoven fabric that protects the instruments and devices during sterilization processes that may be performed while in the container. (As used herein, the term "fabric" is intended to encompass any sheet-like or web material that is formed in whole or in part from a plurality of fibers.) ~~These is formed in whole or in part from a plurality of fibers.)~~ These packages usually take the form of bags, pouches, or the like. Such containers preserve sterility upon subsequent storage until they are opened and the instruments are used.